What is claimed is:

1. A circuit board coupon tester for testing a coupon forming a part of a circuit board, comprising:

a test fixture for holding the circuit board in a prescribed position;

a probe head with a probe for probing a coupon component terminal forming a part of the circuit board coupon;

a linear actuator connected to the probe head;

an LCR meter electrically coupled to the probe head;

a test controller operating under program control to carry out a coupon test by:

causing the linear actuator to move the probe head in a linear direction to a desired position;

causing the probe to engage the coupon component terminal; and

receiving a value associated with the coupon component from the LCR meter.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an in-circuit tester and wherein the test fixture holds the circuit board in the prescribed position for testing by the in-circuit tester.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the test controller further controls the in-circuit tester.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the test controller controls the in-circuit tester to conduct an in-circuit test while carrying out the coupon test.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the LCR meter comprises a radio frequency LCR meter.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coupon test further comprises storing the component value.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a programmable logic controller, and wherein causing the linear actuator to move and causing the probe to engage are carried out by the test controller instructing the programmable logic controller to cause the linear actuator to move and cause the probe to engage.

8. A circuit board coupon tester for testing a coupon forming a part of a circuit board, comprising:

a test fixture for holding the circuit board in a prescribed position;

a probe head with a probe for probing a plurality of coupon component terminals forming a part of the circuit board coupon;

a linear actuator connected to the probe head;

an LCR meter electrically coupled to the probe head;

a test controller operating under program control to carry out a coupon test by:

causing the linear actuator to move the probe head in a linear direction to a desired position over each component of the coupon;

causing the probe to engage each of the plurality of coupon component terminals; and

receiving a value associated with each of the plurality of coupon components from the LCR meter.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising an in-circuit tester and wherein the test fixture holds the circuit board in the prescribed position for testing by the in-circuit tester.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the test controller further controls the in-circuit tester.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the test controller controls the in-circuit tester to conduct an in-circuit test while carrying out the coupon test.

12. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the LCR meter comprises a radio frequency LCR meter.

13. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the coupon test further comprises storing the component value.

14. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a programmable logic controller, and wherein causing the linear actuator to move and causing the probe to engage are carried out by the test controller instructing the programmable logic controller to cause the linear actuator to move and cause the probe to engage.

15. A circuit board coupon tester for testing a circuit board, the circuit board having a coupon forming a part thereof, comprising:

a test fixture for holding the circuit board in a prescribed position;

a probe head with a probe for probing a plurality of coupon component terminals forming a part of the circuit board coupon;

a linear actuator connected to the probe head;

an LCR meter;

a flexible cable connecting the probe head to LCR meter;

an in-circuit tester;

a test controller operating under program control to carry out a coupon test by:

causing the linear actuator to move the probe head in a linear direction to a desired position over each component of the coupon;

causing the probe to engage each of the plurality of coupon component terminals; and

receiving a value associated with each of the plurality of coupon components from the LCR meter; and

the test controller further operating to conduct an in-circuit test, wherein at least a portion of the in-circuit test and the coupon test occur simultaneously.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the LCR meter comprises a radio frequency LCR meter.

17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the conducting an in-circuit test comprises conducing an unpowered test followed by conducting a powered test.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the coupon test is carried out simultaneously with at least a portion of the unpowered test.

19. The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a programmable logic controller, and wherein causing the linear actuator to move and causing the probe to engage is carried out by the test controller instructing the programmable logic controller to cause the linear actuator to move and cause the probe to engage.

20. A method of testing a circuit board, the circuit board having a coupon thereon, the coupon having a plurality of components with a plurality of test pads coupled to each of the plurality of components, the coupon components being arranged linearly adjacent an edge of the circuit board, the method comprising:

holding the circuit board in a fixture in a prescribed position, the fixture having a linear actuator thereon carrying a test head with a probe;

under program control, sequentially moving the test head linearly to a position above each of the plurality components;

engaging the probe with the test pads for each of the plurality of components; and

measuring a value associated with each of the plurality of components.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the measuring is carried out using an LCR meter.

22. The method according to claim 20, further comprising, carrying out at least a portion of an in-circuit test simultaneously with at least a portion of the moving, engaging and measuring.

23. The method according to claim 1, wherein causing the linear actuator to move and causing the probe to engage is carried out by the processor instructing a programmable logic controller to cause the linear actuator to move and cause the probe to engage.

24. A method of testing a circuit board, comprising:

providing a circuit board fixture holding the circuit board in a prescribed position;

conducting a coupon test on the circuit board;

conducting an in-circuit test on the circuit board; and

wherein at least a portion of the coupon test is conducted simultaneously with at least a portion of the in-circuit test.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the conducting an in-circuit test comprises conducting an unpowered test followed by conducting a powered test.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein at least a portion of the coupon test is conducted simultaneously with at least a portion of the unpowered test.

27. A circuit board panel, comprising:

at least one circuit board that carries out an electronic function;

a test coupon region situated adjacent an edge of the circuit board panel with a plurality of components, each having a coupon component terminal, arranged linearly along the coupon region;

each of said coupon components having a test pad electrically coupled with the coupon component terminal;

wherein said coupon components are arranged along a line approximately parallel with said edge of the circuit board panel and spaced at regular intervals; and

wherein at least one of the coupon components is selected from a group consisting of a capacitor having value less than or equal to 10 pf and an inductor having value less than or equal to 25 microHenrys.